

BOOK ALERT

January/February 2010

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THE AMERICAN LIBRARIES IN INDIA

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Holdings of each American Library are indicated by symbols:
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Please feel free to write to Mr. Steven P. Kerchoff,
Information Resource Officer, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy,
The American Center, 24, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi – 110 001.

*Compiled and edited by Sanjay Kumar Bhagat, Public Affairs Section,
U.S. Embassy, New Delhi, India. Email: BhagatSK@state.gov*

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ARCHITECTURE & URBAN PLANNING

1. McDonald, John F.
Urban America : growth, crisis, and rebirth / John F. McDonald. M.E. Sharpe, ©2008. 377 p. 307.76 MCD

In this survey of the 29 largest American urban areas, including New York, Boston, Chicago, Dallas and St. Louis, McDonald offers a comprehensive economic and social history of urban America. He highlights the major social changes, crises, and rebirths that have occurred in each of these places between 1950 and 2000. Concentrating on regions such as the Northeast and the Sunbelt, the text considers the prosperity and suburbanization of the 1950s, the great migration to Northeast industrial cities, and employment crises and urban growth in the 70s and 80s. the author analyses factors such as the housing boom that contribute to the modern rebirth as well as ideas for expanding and sustaining such processes. -- CH/ND (Adapted from Book News, Inc., ©2008)

THE ARTS

2. Perkowitz, S.
Hollywood science : movies, science, and the end of the world / Sidney Perkowitz. Columbia University Press, ©2007. 255 p. 791.43615 PER

Perkowitz, author of several popular science books, presents a well-written study of how science has percolated into Hollywood world and how Hollywood has depicted scientists. A scientist and film enthusiast, the author discusses the portrayal of science in more than one hundred films including early films like *Voyage to the Moon* and *Metropolis* to recent films like *The Matrix*, *War of the Worlds*, *A Beautiful Mind*, and *An Inconvenient Truth*. The author explores how accurately Hollywood films capture scientific facts and theories and how realistic their depiction of scientists and their works is. For example, is there a possibility of our collision with a comet? The author focuses on the impact and influence of these films on public opinion about science and the future. The book attracts wide readership especially drawing attention of

those who get easily moved by science fiction movies. This book will help them differentiate fantasies from facts. -- CH/K/ND

BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT

3. Cohen, William A.
A class with Drucker : the lost lessons of the world's greatest management teacher / by William A. Cohen. AMACOM/American Management Association, ©2008. 258 p. 658 COH

Cohen, the first graduate of Peter Drucker's doctoral program in management, offers Drucker's "lost" classroom lessons as remembered and used by Cohen throughout his career. Arguably one of the most influential management theorists ever, Drucker was also an unforgettable teacher. Cohen's early chapters explore his own personal history and Drucker's teaching style. Subsequent chapters provide solid lessons on building self-confidence, refusing to accept "accepted" knowledge, approaching problems with ignorance, creating rather than predicting the future, and motivating knowledge workers. Each chapter recalls Drucker's lectures, business examples, insights from Drucker's life and work resulting into compilation of this useful volume on Drucker. -- CH/M/ND (Adapted from Library Journal, ©2007)

4. Evan, James R.
Quality and performance excellence : management, organization, and strategy / James R. Evans. 5th ed. Thomson Business and Economics, ©2008. 502 p. 658.4013 EVA

This book illustrates the basic principles and tools associated with quality and performance excellence. Customer dissatisfaction with many goods and services is causing managers to rethink their commitment to quality. Many organizations are revisiting the concepts and principles that significantly improved the U.S. manufacturing and service industry during the 1980s and 1990s. The author establishes a relationship between basic principles and the popular theories and models taught in management courses. He supplements his arguments with numerous illustrations and end-of-chapter cases, many of which focus on large and small companies in manufacturing

and service industries in North and South America, Europe, and Asia-Pacific. -- CH/M

5. Hamel, Gary.
The future of management / Gary Hamel ; with Bill Breen. Harvard Business School Press, ©2007. 272 p. 658 HAM

Hamel and Breen reconsider principles, processes, and practices in management which are to create long-term corporate advantage through adaptability and creativity. They observe that innovation in management remains at the core of long-term business success. Recent breakthroughs in the technology of management have facilitated many companies including General Electric, Procter & Gamble, Toyota, and Visa to cross new performance thresholds and build long-term advantages. According to them, organizations need bold management innovation now more than ever before. -- CH/K/M/ND

6. Horton, William K.
E-learning by design / William Horton. Pfeiffer, ©2006. 596 p. 658.3124 HOR

Intended to be a resource for training and human resource professionals, this book provides a systematic, flexible, and rapid process covering every phase of designing e-learning. The book includes technological issues like visual design and navigation of the virtual classroom. The book guides the industrial trainers and academic educators in inventing engaging learning activities, targeting specific goals, designing learning games and simulations, and writing online tests and assessments. Horton has included lots of real world examples and several case studies from different fields to make the book practical in its approach. -- CH/K/ND

7. Otazo, Karen L.
The truth about being a leader : and nothing but the truth / Karen Otazo. Financial Times Press, ©2007. 233 p. 658.4092 OTA

Drawing on his more than 20 years of experience in coaching executives, Dr. Otazo offers more than 50 tips on effective leadership. Having worked with more than 2,000 individuals at different levels, from

interns to CEOs, she illustrates what actually works in a real-life situation. Based on facts and evidence, the book offers tips for assuming a new leadership position, speaking to an audience, motivating a team, setting clear boundaries with employees, delegating responsibility, and tracking relationships. -- CH/K/ND

8. Pepper, John.
What really matters : service, leadership, people, and values / John Pepper. Yale University Press, 2007. 305 p. 338.6 PEP

Former president, CEO and then chairman of Procter & Gamble, John Pepper distills a lifetime of experience highlighting the importance of continuous change, innovation, and renewal for growth and sound leadership in business as well as in personal life. Pepper splits the book into three sections—foundations for success, staying in the lead, and how we live our lives. The volume is filled with lots of good thoughts about a range of business strategies including when to draw a line and make firm decisions. The author explores the possibilities for the student of consumer product development and distribution. He shows how profitable business can create and sustain a culture that shapes and get shaped by ethical behavior. The book includes topics like change and innovation, respect for the customer, ethical conduct and a culture of trust, developing talent, diversity, and corporate responsibility to employees and community. -- CH/ND

COMMUNICATION

9. Foerstel, Herbert N.
Killing the messenger : journalists at risk in modern warfare / Herbert N. Foerstel ; foreword by Danny Schechter. Praeger, ©2006. 161 p. 070.4333 KIL

In this book, Foerstel explores the dangers associated with war correspondents. The book opens with a retrospective chapter that covers seminal war correspondents who served from the American Civil War through most of the 20th century. The author then focuses on recent conflicts, including the Lebanese civil war of the 1970s and 1980s and the contemporary Afghanistan and Iraq wars. Foerstel mixes the words of former hostages, current war correspondents, and authors to convey how life-threatening war

reporting has become. The book includes narratives from, and his own interviews with, such former hostages as Terry Anderson, who was kidnapped in Lebanon in 1985 and held for over six years. -- CH/K/M/ND (Adapted from Library Journal, ©2006)

10. Kumar, Martha Joynt.
Managing the President's message : the White House communications operation / Martha Joynt Kumar. Johns Hopkins University Press, ©2007. 345 p. 352.384 KUM

The burgeoning variety of news sources poses a real challenge for any political administration wishing to communicate agendas, priorities, and policy initiatives to the public. Kumar examines the White House Office of Communications, with particularly detailed analysis of the Clinton and George W. Bush terms. She looks at the delicate balance between Presidents, who must use the press to communicate, and the media, which can play an adversarial role in covering them. She defines the White House's communications role as advocating for policies, defending the President from critics, and coordinating government-wide publicity. Her interviews with Communications Office staff from earlier administrations, such as Ford's and Reagan's, offer a rare look at day-to-day operations and strategies. Kumar notes that even as communications strategies vary, there is stability in the system across administrations. -- CH/K/ND (Adapted from Library Journal, ©2007)

11. Peter Jennings : a reporter's life / edited by Kate Darnton, Kayce Freed Jennings and Lynn Sherr. Public Affairs, ©2007. 321 p. 070.195 JEN

This account of the life of Peter Jennings, a longtime anchor of ABC's *World News Tonight*, is largely based on interviews conducted for his televised remembrance, which aired shortly after his death in 2005. Friends and fellow reporters retrace every step of his career, starting with his first jobs in Canadian radio to his coverage of major events like the 9/11 attacks. When he was just 26, he was hired by ABC to anchor the evening news, a job he himself would later admit he was simply unqualified for at that time. So he demanded to be sent out into the field as a foreign correspondent, building up his experience until he became what Ted Koppel calls "a complete package" as a journalist—smart, attractive

and graceful under pressure. Throughout his life, Peter Jennings was driven by a passion to seek the truth and convey that truth accurately, simply, cleanly, and elegantly to his American audience. -- CH/K/ND (Adapted from Publishers Weekly, ©2007)

ECONOMICS

12. Brown, Clair.
Economic turbulence : is a volatile economy good for America? / Clair Brown, John Haltiwanger, and Julia Lane. University of Chicago Press, ©2006. 197 p. 338.54 BRO

Constant flux is a characteristic of the U.S. free market system, where on a continual basis one business shuts down while another starts up. This book assesses the impact of this character on the wages and careers of workers. In the light of new data, three esteemed economists examine five key industries—financial services, retail food services, trucking, semiconductors, and software. They conclude that turbulence's downside has been exaggerated. They demonstrate the resiliency of most workers and firms by turning turbulence into new opportunities. -- CH

13. Economic development in American cities : the pursuit of an equity agenda / edited by Michael I.J. Bennett and Robert P. Giloth. State University of New York Press, ©2007. 248 p. 307.76 ECO

This collection of essays addresses the role of municipal leaders and civic partners in promoting social equity. Edited by Bennet and Giloth, these essays examine the experiences of five American cities in the 1990s—Austin, Cleveland, Rochester, Savannah, and Seattle. The choice of the cities was based on their activist municipal administrations, robust policy agendas, and viable partnerships. Cities were evaluated by contributors familiar with the cities. The resulting contrasts are instructive and informative. -- CH/K/M/ND

14. Forstater, Mathew.
Little book of big ideas economics / Mathew Forstater ; introduction by James Rollo. Chicago Review Press, ©2007. 128 p. 330 FOR

Forstater presents a brief but invaluable account of complex issues in economics, describing how the great personalities have shaped the history of economics. The scope of the book extends from the earliest notions of economic thought to the modern concepts of microeconomics and the philosophies of free trade. It discusses the 50 most influential thinkers in the history of world economics and 10 ideas or economic school of thought. -- K/ND

15. Stock market liquidity : implications for market microstructure and asset pricing / [edited by] François-Serge Lhabitant and Greg N. Gregoriou. John Wiley & Sons, ©2008. 475 p. 332.642 STO

Stock market liquidity is a collection of quality papers based on market microstructure research by some of the pioneers in the financial arena. The book also includes some of the classic papers on which the whole discipline of market microstructure is based. While a perfectly liquid market is something hypothetical, an understanding of what drives market liquidity in academics and in practice is crucial, especially in light of the recent fluctuations in price and volume in major financial markets. The topics covered in this volume include how liquidity varies across markets (stocks, bonds, money market instruments, and derivatives) and across different international exchanges, impact of market design on liquidity, effect of corporate events on liquidity, and impact of level of liquidity and liquidity risk on asset prices. -- M

16. Thomsett, Michael C.
The stock investor's pocket calculator : a quick guide to all the formulas and ratios you need to invest like a pro / Michael C. Thomsett. AMACOM/American Management Association, ©2007. 241 p. 332.6 THO

A former accountant and financial consultant, Michael C. Thomsett reviews basic math for calculating the return on past stock investments. He explains different methods for analyzing a company's financial reports and tracking a stock's price trend before purchase. According to the author a stock

investor must understand the numbers behind every decision he takes. And this need not be complicated or tricky. No investment calculation, he says, is so complex that one cannot figure it out. -- K/ND (Adapted from Book News, Inc., ©2007)

17. Unger, Robert Mangabeira.
Free trade reimagined : the world division of labor and the method of economics / Robert Mangabeira Unger. Princeton University Press, ©2007. 229 p. 382.71 UNG

Questioning the prevailing theory and practice of free trade and globalization, this book offers a unique perspective about globalization and international trade. While not defending protectionism against free trade, Unger recommends revising and rethinking some of the main assumptions that remain at the core of the debate between free trade and protectionism. The argument about free trade is itself “fundamentally defective” and calls for a novel and original thinking about free trade and globalization. He offers proposals aimed at reforming the world trading system. The book’s strength is its innovative approach, discussion of technical issues in plain language, and clear innovative ideas for further discussion and debate. -- K/ND

EDUCATION

18. Erickson, Bette LaSere.
Teaching first-year college students / Bette LaSere Erickson, Calvin B. Peters and Diane Weltner Strommer. Rev. and expanded ed. Jossey-Bass, ©2006. 284 p. 378.12 ERI

In this volume, Erickson, Peters, and Strommer review the most current research on teaching and learning in order to address some of the basic concerns of students and teachers at college level. In the light of the contemporary demographic shift in student populations, the authors address the challenges faced by the first-year students in acclimatizing to both academic and nonacademic pressures of college. Counting on their vast teaching experiences, the authors call for reexamination of prevailing classroom practices and an attempt to establish a connection between the traditional learning processes and the present demands.

They maintain that the experiences of students' first year should be encouraging enough for them to persist and succeed in college. The book has primarily been written for college and university faculty who teach first-year students. -- CH/ND

19. Reese, William J.
History, education, and the schools / William J. Reese. Palgrave Macmillan, 2007. 218 p. 370 REE

Well-known historian of education Resse presents this superb collection of previously published historical essays that illuminate contemporary concerns about the nature and character of America's schools. The book discusses on the rise of public schools in the nineteenth century, the evolution of private school alternatives, and the ongoing debate about modern schooling and reform. The book will specially appeal to scholars and education policymakers apart from general audience. -- M/ND

ENVIRONMENT

20. American Earth : environmental writing since Thoreau / edited by Bill McKibben ; foreword by Al Gore. Literary Classics of the United States, ©2008. 1047 p. 333.72 AME

This superb anthology offers over 100 authors' views on various aspects of environmentalism in the United States including global warming, defending our natural resources, nuclear nonproliferation, American Indian rights, air and water pollution, and protecting animals in the wild. The contributors include poets, novelists, songwriters, politicians, journalists, essayists, scientists, and academics, but the focus is on those who love the land and strive to protect it from interests that want to harm or neglect it. -- CH/M/ND (Adapted from Library Journal, ©2008)

HISTORY & CIVILIZATION

21. The state of Black America 2007 : portrait of the Black male / National Urban League ; foreword by Barack Obama. Beckham Publications Group, ©2007. 973 NAT

This compilation of essays highlights the challenges faced by the African American community. Although statistics reveal that many black men are doing well, glaring economic and other gaps continue to exist between them and their white counterparts. The essays included in this volume analyze the causes and effects of the disparities and offer targeted recommendations for eliminating them. -- CH/K/M/ND

INFORMATION SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

22. Wright, Alex.
Glut : mastering information through the ages / Alex Wright. Joseph Henry Press, ©2007. 286 p. 020.9 WRI

This book takes readers on a provocative journey through the history of the information age. According to Alex Wright, a writer and an information architect, the concept of information systems is not a modern construct. He argues that the information age started long before the advent of computers and microchips, when human beings were collecting, storing, and organizing information. The author explores efforts at organizing both people and information, from Sumerian projects to Wikipedia. He provides a thorough account of classification and information organizing schemes. He connects seemingly far-flung topics like insect colonies, Stone Age jewelry, medieval monasteries, Renaissance encyclopedias, early computer networks, and the World Wide Web. Wright concludes by suggesting that the future of information age may actually lie deep in our cultural past. -- CH/K/ND

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

23. Lind, Michael.
The American way of strategy / Michael Lind. Oxford University Press, ©2006. 294 p. 327.73 LIN

This book discusses the values associated with U.S. foreign policy, the goal of which has traditionally been to preserve the American way of life. Lind explores how successive American statesmen from George Washington to Ronald Reagan have pursued the American strategy, minimizing the dangers of empire and anarchy by two means—liberal internationalism and realism. He also acknowledges the significant shift in U.S. foreign policy against its tradition after the first Gulf War. The book is a well-researched practical guide designed to preserve a peaceful and demilitarized world. The author notes that American leaders who have maintained this policy have led the nation from success to success, and when they have deviated, the results have been unsolicited. -- M/ND

24. Wagner, R. Harrison.
War and the state : the theory of international politics / R. Harrison Wagner. University of Michigan Press, ©2007. 260 p. 327.101 WAG

This book explores American Political scientists' views on the relation between organized violence and political order at the global level. Realism has dominated the study of international politics in the United States since World War II. Taking a critical look at Kenneth Waltz's landmark study, *Theory of International Politics*, Wagner reviews the major theoretical approaches to the study of international relations including structural or neorealism, offensive and defensive realism, classical realism, neoliberal institutionalism, and constructivism. In this compelling book on international relations theory, the author offers brilliant insights into the nature of international relations and international conflict. -- CH/K/M/ND

LAW

25. O'Neil, Johnathan.
Originalism in American law and politics : a constitutional history /
Johnathan O'Neil. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007, ©2005.
281 p. 342.73029 ONE

This book explains how the debate over originalism emerged from the interaction of constitutional theory, U.S. Supreme Court decisions, and American political development. The core originalist idea, explains O'Neill, is that the intent of the law's framer is the law. He examines the originalist conception of constitutional authority and explains why it became a significant component of American political life after World War II. Though the approach is rooted in longstanding principles of Anglo-Saxon constitutionalism, he says, its reappearance since the 1960s was due more to changes in the postwar period that affected both politics and constitutional jurisprudence. He argues that historians should do further research in this area of study, which has traditionally been the territories of academic lawyers and political scientists. -
- K (Adapted from Book News, Inc., ©2005)

26. Posner, Richard A.
Not a suicide pact : the Constitution in a time of national emergency /
Richard A. Posner. Oxford University Press, ©2006. 171 p.
342.73085 POS

Posner, a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, asks whether new definitions of rights are required in this post-9/11 era of heightened security, what should be the delicate balance between personal liberty and public safety, and to what degree civil liberties derived from the Constitution should vary with the threat level. Further, he asks which branch of U.S. national government should define that threat level. Posner deals with a wide range of current civil liberties issues ranging from National Security Agency eavesdropping on citizens' domestic and international phone calls to the constitutional rights of terrorist suspects. Posner argues that a nonlegal "law of necessity" would justify contravening the Constitution in extreme situations. He further argues that it is constitutional to criminalize the expression of beliefs which promote terrorism. -- CH/M/ND (Adapted from Library Journal, ©2006)

27. The state of play : law, games, and virtual worlds / edited by Jack M. Balkin and Beth Simone Noveck. New York University Press, ©2006. 304 p. 343.09944 STA

Millions of people around the globe inhabit virtual world and participate in multiplayer online role-playing games in a simulated environment. People go to virtual spaces like Britannia, Norrath, Second Life, and Star Wars Galaxies to create new identities, fall in love, build cities, make rules, and break them. Even U.S. military now uses virtual world to simulate military situations and train and recruit real soldiers for battle. The expansion into the virtual world also raises several questions about its basic rules—should there be a separate legal jurisdiction of the virtual world, when should real-world laws pitch into virtual world, what is the nature of property in this new world, what should be done when virtual items are destroyed or stolen, role of state in regulating the virtual-world industry, and many more concerns. The essays explore both the emergence of law in multiplayer online games and how we can use virtual worlds to study real world social interactions and test real-world laws. -- K

28. U.S. intellectual property law and policy / edited by Hugh Hansen. Edward Elgar, ©2006. 210 p. 346.73048 USI

Six essays by American law scholars identify and address key principles and policies regarding the protection of intellectual property in the United States. They critically analyze the perceived need for a constant expansion of protectable subject matter. The essays discuss whether the legislature and judiciary have taken sufficient consideration of the different economic and constitutional rationales when extending protection. Finally they suggest a tentative agenda for both Congress and the courts for dealing with technological changes. -- K (Adapted from Book News, Inc., ©2006)

LITERATURE & LANGUAGE

29. Abbotson, Susan C.W.
Critical companion to Arthur Miller : a literary reference to his life and work / Susan C.W. Abbotson. Facts on File, ©2007. 518 p.
REF 812.52 MIL

This volume serves as a thorough source of information on Arthur Miller, the master dramatist of America whose works have become benchmark for other dramatists. The guide offers information on Miller's life, career, and writing covering his plays, screenplays, fiction, short stories, and poetry. It contains detailed entries on literary, theatrical, and personal figures who are related to Miller's life and career, key terms and topics connected to his world, and various theatrical companies and places with which he has been associated. -- (For use only in the Library) CH/M/ND

30. Fargnoli, A. Nicholas.
Critical companion to William Faulkner : a literary reference to his life and work / A. Nicholas Fargnoli, Michael Golay and Robert W. Hamblin. Facts on File, ©2008. 562 p. REF 813.52 FAU

This companion presents a complete portrait of William Faulkner, a landmark American writer who is remembered for his novels and short stories. The authors begin with a short biography of Faulkner and his family. They note how his childhood and family history influenced his stories, his emotional make up, and his alcoholic tendencies. This is followed by an annotated list of all Faulkner's short stories and novels with a synopsis, character list and excerpts from reviews. The volume also incorporates a dictionary of subjects associated with Faulkner, from Civil War battles and generals to his publishers, fellow writers, his themes and friends such as Humphrey Bogart. Lastly the editors give a list of biographical works and literary studies for more serious scholars. -- (For use only in the Library) CH/M/ND
(Adapted from Book News, Inc., ©2008)

31. Grisham, John.
The appeal / John Grisham. Doubleday, ©2008. 358 p. GRI

A Mississippi jury returns a \$41-million verdict against a chemical company accused of dumping carcinogenic waste into a small town's water supply. The company's ruthless billionaire CEO is thwarted and the good guys (a courageous young woman who lost her husband and child and her two lawyers who've gone half a million dollars in debt preparing her case) receive just reward. This sounds like the end of Grisham's legal thriller, but instead it is the beginning of a book-length lesson in how greed and big business have corrupted our electoral and judicial systems. -- ND (Adapted from Publishers Weekly, ©2008)

32. Off the page : writers talk about beginnings, endings, and everything in between / edited by Carole Burns, introduction by Marie Arana. W.W. Norton, ©2008. 231 p. 810.9 OFF

As host of "Off the Page," a series of online literary chat sessions, published by *Washington Post*, Burns interviewed more than 40 authors including popular contemporaries like Joyce Carol Oates, A.S. Byatt, Michael Cunningham, Gish Jen, Jhumpa Lahiri, Tobias Wolff, and Alice McDermott. The authors comment on various topics mostly relating to fiction, the ideas behind their stories, inspiration, influence of place, approach to writing stories and novels, making a sex scene work, declaring completion of a work, revision, and more. Burns has beautifully woven this wisdom into chapters that will deepen one's appreciation for the art of writing and will provoke new ways of writing. Although not intended to be a writing manual, this book offers invaluable insight for the struggling writers who would like to master their craft of writing. -- CH/K/ND

33. Rubin, Joan Shelley.
Songs of ourselves : the uses of poetry in America / Joan Shelley Rubin. Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, ©2007. 470 p. 811.009 RUB

Rubin shows how poetry has been at the core of American culture. From the 1880s through the 1950s, Americans of many tastes and stations considered poetry a part of their daily lives. They read poetry to one another at home, memorized and recited at schools, in citizenship ceremonies, in

churches, in synagogues and in parades, and quoted it to reassure themselves. Using a wide range of primary sources, Rubin constructs a detailed and democratic study that reveals the importance of poetry in American life. Her study warrants attention, not just from historical circles but also from people who want poems to matter even now. -- K/M/ND (Adapted from Publishers Weekly, ©2006)

34. Williams, Tennessee.
Notebooks / Tennessee Williams ; edited by Margaret Bradham. Yale University Press, ©2006. 828 p. 818.54 WIL

Tennessee Williams' *Notebooks*, here published for the first time, presents completely uninhibited record of his adult life from 1936 (when he was 25) to 1981 (two years before his death at 71). His journals, scribbled by pencil into a series of ordinary spiral-bound notebooks, can hardly be considered ordinary. These entries are Williams unvarnished; his voice and views are not rehearsed, second-guessed, or even polished. He is honest about his life and lifestyle, from his over nervous stomach to his sexual exploits to the places to which he traveled. When opened at any page, the book displays annotations on the left-hand side, which have been carefully and energetically written, while the journal entries themselves appear on the right side. -- CH/K/ND (Adapted from Booklist, ©2006)

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

35. Mailer, Norman.
On God : an uncommon conversation / Norman Mailer with Michael Lennon. Random House, ©2007. 215 p. 211 MAI

Famed novelist and playwright Mailer here embarks on a conversation about all aspects of God and religion with Lennon, president of the Norman Mailer Society. Written shortly before Mailer's death in 2007, the book focuses on a wide range of subjects that revolve around Mailer's assertion that God is an artist. Mailer believed in the existence of God but argued that he is like an artist because he is not perfect. He created the dinosaurs and then realized that they were too large to survive, so they had to become extinct. The authors discuss reincarnation, the state of world religions, fundamentalism, the Holocaust, poverty, intelligent design,

and prayer. They refer to numerous disciplines, including literature, art, philosophy, and theology. As with his life and all his writings, Mailer took no prisoners with this work. He was unapologetic in his criticism of all of the major religions for stifling creative thought in both their leaders and their followers. -- CH/K/ND (Adapted from Library Journal, ©2007)

36. Richardson, Robert D.
William James : in the maelstrom of American modernism : a biography / Robert D. Richardson. Houghton Mifflin, ©2006. 622 p.
191 JAM

Richardson recounts how William James, psychologist and philosopher, seized his historic chance to establish American psychology as a scientific pursuit freed from metaphysical encumbrance. James erased the traditional boundary between thought and thinker, defying both platonic idealism and materialistic determinism as he probed the powers of the human will to shape the universe it experiences. Richardson investigates with particular care James' foray into the complex psychology of belief, detailing how James affirmed the human capacity for faith as a prerequisite for fruitful action. He illustrates how James harmonized religious hope with his own formulation of pragmatism as the dynamic process that defines modernity. Readers visit the academic settings in which James worked, alternately clashing and collaborating with Harvard titans such as Royce and Santayana. But readers also see how fiercely the great psychologist resisted lecture-room formulas in his quest for direct experience. And in that quest the vicissitudes he shared with his wife, close friends, and family counted for more than the doctrines of theoreticians. -- K (Adapted from Booklist, ©2006)

POLITICAL SCIENCE

37. Bruns, Roger.
Martin Luther King, Jr. : a biography / Rogers Bruns. Greenwood Press, ©2006. 157 p. 323 KIN

The biography, written with a young audience in mind, illustrates the life and work of King, Jr., his activism and rise to the leadership of the civil rights movement. Bruns traces young Martin when he was admitted to Morehouse College at 15 to his graduating at 19 and further to

his completion of doctorate at 26. At 34, King addressed a gathering of 200,000 at the Lincoln Memorial and the next year he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The next four years of his life he fought for basic civil rights. Like success, his end also came early; King died when he was only 39. -- CH/K/M/ND

38. Diggins, John P.
 Ronald Reagan : fate, freedom, and the making of history / John Patrick Diggins. W.W. Norton & Co., ©2007. 493 p. 973.927 REA

According to Diggins, Reagan has been misinterpreted by both the Right and the Left. For this reason, legacy in American political history has been distorted and undervalued. Contrary to liberal opinions, Reagan was no philosophical lightweight, nor was he the moral absolutist lauded by conservatives. He was a man of consistent beliefs, forged during the Cold War. In his efforts to end the Cold War, he was closer to liberals who always thought it possible than to conservatives who didn't believe it could ever be done. Reagan was "the only President in American history to have resolved a sustained, deadly international confrontation without going to war," defying liberal expectations of him personally and conservative expectations of the value of diplomacy. Reagan rejected the authority of religion as much as government. By convincing Americans to believe in themselves, Reagan demonstrated the duality of American political culture, that it is both liberal and conservative. -- K (Adapted from Booklist, ©2007)

39. Hargrove, Erwin C.
 The effective presidency : lessons on leadership from John F. Kennedy to George W. Bush / Erwin C. Hargrove. Paradigm Publishers, ©2008. 284 p. 973.92 HAR

This book offers a comparison of nine successive U.S. Presidents from John F. Kennedy to George W. Bush, profiling them according to their different styles and accomplishments. It takes into account their decisions and actions, and the institutions within which they worked. Comparing Presidents and generalizing how they make a difference in history has always been a challenging task for both political scientists as well as historians. According to Hargrove, all the nine Presidents were effective in one way or another. His analysis of the Presidents is based on the historical context in which each of them worked, their personal attributes and political skills, and the difference

made by each one of them. The result of Hargrove's analysis is accessible, interesting, and engaging. -- CH/M/ND

40. Samples, John Curtis.
The fallacy of campaign finance reform / John Samples. University of Chicago Press, ©2006. 375 p. 324.78 SAM

Samples offers a logical and well-documented analysis of political finance reform in America. He takes a penetrating look into the premises and consequences of the long crusade against big money in politics. While the debate over financing of political campaigns will likely continue, the author uncovers numerous fallacies beneath proposals for campaign finance reform. Provocative and decidedly nonpartisan, this work provides a wealth of information on the topic and challenges many of the commonly held position of reformers. -- M

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

41. Iacoboni, Marco.
Mirroring people : the new science of how we connect with others / Marco Iacoboni. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, ©2008. 308 p. 573.8 IAC

Neuroscientist Iacoboni introduces readers to the world of mirror neurons and what they imply about human empathy, which underlies morality. Mirror neurons allow us to interpret facial expressions of pain or joy and respond appropriately. Mirror neurons also help us learn by imitating, from newborns who instinctively copy facial gestures to adults learning a new skill. The book offers an understanding the neural basis of human nature. -- K/ND (Adapted from Publishers Weekly, ©2008)

SOCIOLOGY

42. All the money in the world : how the Forbes 400 make—and spend—their fortunes / edited by Peter W. Bernstein and Annalyn Swan. 1st Vintage Books ed. Vintage Books, 2008. 416 p. 305.5234 ALL

The Forbes 400, the dominant symbol of wealth in America, was first published in 1982 by the business magazine of the same name. Drawing on extensive interviews with those who have graced this listing in the past as well as using new firsthand accounts, this book provides fascinating insights into "how the Forbes 400 make and spend their fortunes." The text is enhanced by abundant interesting and often humorous sidebars and an alphabetically organized appendix that lists all Forbes 400 members past and present, including each member's number of years on the list, year of highest net worth, and peak net worth. The common characteristic among these individuals is an undying focus on succeeding. Their determination is inspiring as well as contagious. -- K/M/ND (Adapted from Library Journal, ©2007)

43. Challenging the chip : labor rights and environmental justice in the global electronics industry / edited by Ted Smith, David A. Sonnenfeld and David Naguib Pellow ; with Leslie A. Byster ... [et al.] ; foreword by Jim Hightower. Temple University Press, ©2006. 357 p. 331.7 CHA

Challenging the Chip is a collection of essays that expose environmental, public health, and labor rights abuses of an industry that has become symbol of progress and prosperity. The volume seeks to encourage discussions between labor, environmentalist and human rights activists on the issue. Contributors from Asia, North America, Europe, and Latin America provide multidimensional perspectives on the science and the politics of environmental and social justice. They provide an encyclopedic overview of the conditions in electronics manufacturing around the globe—from Silicon Valley in California to Silicon Glen in Scotland and from Silicon Island in Taiwan to Silicon Paddy in China. The industry's worldwide ecological impact warrants alternative vision for the regulation and sustainable

development of manufacturing, assembly/disassembly, and waste disposal. --
CH/K

44. Dhingra, Pawan.
Managing multicultural lives : Asian American professionals and the
Challenge of multiple identities / Pawan Dhingra. Stanford University
Press, ©2007. 316 p. 305.8 DHI

This book offers a nuanced understanding of cultural fusion highlighting immigrant adaptation, multiculturalism, and identity management in different immigrant groups in America. Dhingra focuses on how second-generation Indian Americans and Korean Americans construct their hybrid ethnic and racial identities. He explores how they express their ethnic and American identity in their everyday life and handle contrasting self-conceptions. -- CH/K/M/ND

45. Pampel, Fred C.
Disaster response / Fred C. Pampel. Facts on File, ©2008. 298 p.
363.348 PAM

This volume in the *Library in a Book* series offers multiple perspectives on preparing for disasters. Intended to be a first-stop research source on response to catastrophic events, the book offers a critical account of the federal government's response to the victims of Hurricane Katrina of 2005. Apart from Katrina, it also traces other significant U.S. disasters. It illustrates how the recent disasters prompted restructuring of the U.S. government, namely, the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security and the reorganization of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The role of government in protecting its citizens in the event of a disaster from hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, floods, wildfires, landslides, drought, winter storms, nuclear accidents, terrorist attacks, and chemical contamination seems to be more important than ever. -- M

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